

A N A R C H I S T A G E W E E K L Y R E V I E W

An Anarchist Society is a voluntary non-hierarchical society based on the creation of social and political structures which allow all people equal decision making power and equal access to society's wealth.

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....."COMMUNALISATION - The Transfer of Power & Wealth"

from the Hands of the Private Sector & the State, Into the Hands of the Community".....

Number 786

5th May - 11th May 2008

"WE SWEAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS TO STAND TRULY BY EACH OTHER & FIGHT TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS & LIBERTIES"- EUREKA REBELLION OATH 1854

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

The unprecedented 21 billion dollar federal surplus gives the Rudd government the opportunity to fix the housing crisis once and for all. Rapidly escalating housing prices have to a large degree been due to investor domination of the housing market, as a result of generous tax breaks investors are able to utilise through negative gearing laws that allow investors to offset losses on their rental properties.

Negative gearing laws were introduced to encourage investors to build rental housing to provide accommodation for people who could no longer access public housing as state and federal governments withdrew from building public housing. Federally funded rental allowances were introduced for people on social security benefits to assist them in accessing privately owned rental accommodation as governments realised they couldn't compete in the private rental market without government assistance. Negative gearing and rent allowances have artificially raised housing prices driving first home owner occupiers from the housing market forcing them to look for rental accommodation. Their entry into the rental market has driven up rents and forced people on social security benefits out of the rental market onto the streets and into emergency accommodation.

The 21 billion dollar surplus gives the Federal government the opportunity to decrease both housing prices and rent and solve the housing crisis. Using the surplus to build public housing would provide security of tenure for people on social security benefits as they would only need to pay 25% of their income to provide a roof over their heads. Building public housing removes the need to support investors through negative gearing. These actions will allow the market place to find its own level in a market that would be dominated by the needs of owner occupiers, not government assisted investors. A win win situation for everybody as the money saved through removing negative gearing could be ploughed back into public housing. It's a pity the 2020 summit participants weren't encouraged to come up with any new ideas to tackle what is arguably one of the

greatest challenges facing the country today.

CLASSIC!!

The actions taken by Melbourne's taxi drivers when another taxi driver was seriously assaulted by a passenger is a text book example of how direct action achieves results. In a country where trade unions continue to work up the right channels it was refreshing to see workers take direct action and win. When Melbourne's taxi drivers sat in the middle of Melbourne's busiest intersection (Flinders and Swanston St) they were transformed from poorly paid vulnerable exploited subcontractors into the lions of Judea.

By taking direct action and refusing to move, the victims suddenly become the masters of the situation. Faced with militant taxi drivers who had been sold down the river one too many times, the state could send in police on horseback to clear the intersection or they could negotiate directly with the taxi drivers. After making a number of empty threats the state government had no choice but to negotiate directly with the taxi driver's delegates. The taxi drivers achieved results because they refused to move until their demands were met. They understood that possession is nine tenths of the law and that if they moved before a negotiated settlement they would lose the bargaining power they were able to exercise over the state.

Within 24 hours the taxi drivers won most of their demands, demands that had been ignored when they worked up the right channels. Direct action does get the goods especially if people are not intimidated by the police and the government. Do you think Melbourne's taxi drivers would have won their demands if they did nothing?. Of course they wouldn't. Unfortunately today's trade unions have forgotten the lessons of the past every single major reform Australian workers have won has been won by direct action. Working up the right channels is a recipe for disillusionment and defeat. Its ironical that Australia's least unionised workers are the very people that have shown Australian workers how to win a workplace dispute.

PUT IT IN THE CONSTITUTION

New South Wales Premier Morris Iemma's decision to press on with privatisation of the New South Wales electricity system despite overwhelming opposition from the people of New South Wales, trade unions and the New South Wales Labor Party, graphically highlights that public assets belong to the government of the day not the people. Anybody who still believes that public assets belong to the people only has to look at the fate of Telstra, Qantas, The Commonwealth Bank, the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory and the electricity system in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia to realise that ownership of public assets belongs to the government of the day not the public.

The government cannot constitutionally forcibly acquire private property without paying compensation for that property. The government at both the state and federal level can constitutionally dispose of public assets without offering fair compensation to those people who are directly affected by the privatisation of those assets. The blood, sweat and tears of generations of Australians can be sold off at anytime to fill one of the financial black holes governments are so skilled at creating.

There is only one way to ensure that governments do not sell off public assets without community support. The ownership of all public assets should be incorporated in the constitution. If ownership is incorporated in the constitution the next time a government wants to sell off public assets to cover some financial shortfall they would have to put their proposal to the stakeholders - the people - in a referendum to see whether the community, not the government of the day, wants to divest itself of assets that have been paid for by the blood, sweat and tears of previous generations.

SO?

I wonder what the Sunday Age's state political reporter Melissa Fyfe wanted the state government to do when faced with hundreds of determined taxi drivers with legitimate grievances blocking the Swanston St intersection. "*Cabbies' sit-in sets bad example for all those with a gripe*" - Sunday Age 4/5. Did she want the Special Operations Group to fire tear gas into their midst? Did she want the

Mounted Police to trample over them? Did she want the police to spray them with capsicum spray or did she want police command to fire their new water cannon on some of the most exploited workers in Victoria.

The taxi drivers were forced to take direct action because nobody in the industry or the government has listened to their complaints. Every attempt to work up the right channels had failed. The taxi drivers blockade was a peaceful disciplined example of what can be achieved by direct action when all other measures fail. No one in the community could deny the taxi drivers had and continue to have legitimate grievances.

Faced with the option of enforcing the law or maintaining order, the state government, to its credit, decided to address the legitimate grievances of the taxi drivers – when governments stop listening to the people they rule and forget they govern for all the people not just that small section of the community that owns the means of production, distribution and exchange, the most marginalised will take whatever action necessary to highlight their grievances. The community should be thankful that Melbourne's taxi drivers took peaceful, disciplined action to highlight their problems and the state government to its credit negotiated its way out of what could have easily turned into a violent confrontation with casualties on both sides of the fence.

WHY DO THEY HATE US?

Its simple isn't it, we're the good guys aren't we? Unfortunately what's happening in the Middle East, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan makes a mockery of this statement. The struggle isn't as we've come to believe between Muslim fundamentalists and the rest of the community. The struggle is, believe it or not, between the rich and the poor. Muslim fundamentalists and their medieval vision of the world have gained a toehold in the region for one very good reason – corruption – Corruption is endemic in the region, governments have one role and only one role, to fill the pockets of their friends and families.

Every Middle Eastern country, with the possible exception of Israel, has a huge problem with corruption. Nominally democratic governments like the Egyptian government or a feudal monarchy like Saudi Arabia, experience the same problems. Corruption blights the life of rich and poor alike. The Muslim fundamentalist threat is a threat that has grown as a result of endemic corruption at all levels of life.

Faced with overwhelming corruption, people put their faith in anybody who through their action shows they are not corrupt. The democratically elected Hamas government was elected by the people of Palestine because whatever else you may say about them, they are not corrupt. They hate us for one very good

reason because the west has supported and continues to support corrupt regimes that thwart the will of the people. All across the Middle East all corrupt governments have to do is wave the flag of Muslim fundamentalism before the United States and the west and they are willing to support some of the most corrupt evil regimes on the planet. Osama bin Laden's radicalisation occurred as a result of the United States supporting one of the most backward feudal monarchies on the planet in Saudi Arabia. An ally of the United States in Afghanistan during the struggle against the "Godless" communists, he soon bit the hand that fed him, when he realised that the Saudi Arabia Monarchy and the United States government were one and the same government. The same situation exists in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan Qatar, the Arab Emirates and many other Middle Eastern countries.

If the West stopped supporting corrupt, autocratic dictatorships in the Middle East and let the people deal with their own tyrants, maybe, just maybe they wouldn't hate us and the Muslim fundamentalist movement would be confined to the dustbin of history. Freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to express ourselves are universal traits that everybody, not just the west, wants to achieve.

ANARCHIST QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q. "All for one – one for all"?

A. I know it sounds a little trite but anarchism can be summed up in one phrase "all for one – one for all". The single most important aspect of living in an anarchist society is security. Personal security, security of tenure and economic security are the benefits of living in a society where wealth and power are held in common.

Most people accept the criticism that living in a society without rulers is a recipe for insecurity because they believe that people are incapable of governing themselves and left to their own devices they would murder, rape and steal from each other. Anarchists don't accept the idea that people are inherently bad or good. They believe the type of community people live in has a large influence on the type of person you eventually become.

Accepting the idea that one group should be able to exercise power over another group, individuals are born to rule or allow structures to be established that give people the opportunity to exercise power over others is the road to the creation of a community where a minority exercises power over the majority. Power and wealth go hand in hand, you can't create an anarchist community unless structures are adopted that decentralise power and keep wealth in the hands of the community. The security that evolves from a "all for one and one for all" frame of mind is linked to the idea that power and wealth is shared.

In life we either give power to rulers hoping they will do the right thing by us and provide security for us or we place our future in the hands of the community as a whole, creating structures that

ensure individual security becomes an intrinsic component of the community we live in.

ACTION BOX

THE SIT IN

The sit in plays a pivotal role in direct action politics. Faced with the problem of government agencies and employers who refuse to negotiate activists and workers need to consider using the sit in as a tactic to bring matters to a head. The sit in requires a great deal of courage, as the states reaction to the challenge to their authority can be violent and brutal.

Its always better choosing an open site than a closed site. An open site puts you in the public eye and the state has to think twice about the level of violence it is willing to publicly use to end the sit in. you should try to begin negotiations with the relevant parties as soon as possible, opening lines of communication with them, makes it more difficult for them to marginalise you in the publics eye. Be willing to use the media to get your message across to the wider community, whether they will try to starve you out or react violently will, to a significant degree, be determined by the type of media exposure you are able to generate.

You also need to give thought to matters like access to food and water, shelter and access to toilets. Sit ins in open spaces tend to implode relatively quickly if the participants are isolated from the community. Its important to use the element of surprise to your advantage, beginning negotiations as quickly as possible. Never accept their demands that they won't negotiate with you unless you end your sit in. Your bargaining power is directly related to the amount of disruption you are causing, not your demands.

If you get to the negotiating table make sure your delegates have specific mandates and always insist that delegates need to return to the sit in site to have any decisions made ratified by the group as a whole. Lastly, if the sit in is not a spontaneous event, its important that the demands you are making have been discussed and agreed on before the sit in occurs. Nebulous demands can be easily dismissed. Its important you make demands that can be acted on by the authorities you are dealing with. Asking for a pipeline to be stopped or a wage increase is something that can be negotiated. Asking for the abolition of the wage system is something that cannot occur unless every intersection in the city is blocked.

AUSTRALIAN RADICAL HISTORY

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WATERFRONT DISPUTE

The Waterfront dispute was a seminal moment in trade union history in Australia. The Howard government, with the help of Patrick industry, came within a whisker of de-unionising the Waterfront. A weakened trade union movement shell-shocked by this attack was not able to adequately respond to the challenge it faced. In Victoria the struggle down at the docks was to a large degree won by community activists and the Victorian Police Association. The Union presence at the dispute was not as strong as would have been expected. Union support was at best patchy, apart from the CFMEU, not many unionists went down to the docks to help. The Howard government was relying on the Kennett government using the Victoria Police to close down the docks and remove community activists and unionists from the docks.

The Victoria Police Association, a recent addition to Melbourne Trades Hall Council, went into secret negotiations with the MUA after they were confronted by thousands of angry building workers down at the docks. The agreement reached ensured that police would not use violence to disperse the picketers unless they were attacked.



Matters came to a head when the Supreme Court of Victoria put an injunction on protestors going down to the docks. Thousands thumbed their nose at the Supreme Court and ignored the injunction. When police refused to arrest protestors who ignored the injunction, the ball was put back into the Federal governments hands.

Faced with a police force that was unwilling or unable to intervene, the Federal government could only enforce its will by calling in the army. They refused to take this step because of adverse community publicity and the legal challenges they faced in the High Court.

The unsung heroes of the Maritime Union of Australia dispute a decade ago are the community activists who ignored court injunctions and went down to the docks to support the union movement and those members of the Victorian Police Association who refused to obey the letter of the law, preferring to maintain order rather than enforce laws that were designed to destroy the Trade Union movement.

THE MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA BRANCH is holding a celebration at its Victorian headquarters ;
46 Ireland St.
WEST MELBOURNE

Starting at 6:30pm – Friday 9th May 2008 to mark the 10th Anniversary of the MUA dispute. They have issued a special invitation to all those community activists who were involved in the dispute to join them and the other trade unionists who were involved in the MUA dispute a decade ago to mark this milestone in Labor history.

BOOK REVIEW

'OUR ENEMY THE STATE'
Albert Jay Nock
Free Life Edition 1973
Originally published 1928
ISBN 0-9141 156-01-2

I was given this book by a man to review because he was attracted to the title *"Our Enemy The State"*. Unfortunate as in real life, our enemies enemy is not necessarily our friend. The introduction by Walter Grinder is enough to put off any serious anarchist reader, *"Nock does not fit into the classical anarchist utopian vein which assumes that once inhibiting institutional arrangements are eliminated, men will automatically become good."*

I'm sorry to have to tell Walter Grinder, if he is still alive, anarchists don't believe in the "inherent goodness" of human beings or Martians or fairies at the bottom of the garden.

Our Enemy The State should be read by all anarchists so they understand the inherent weakness of the arguments put forward by those libertarians who still believe laissez-faire capitalism is the answer to life's social ills. The abolition of the state results in the domination of all aspects of human life by monopolies in a society where wealth is not held co-operatively and power shared. The key to creating a free society is not just limited to the abolition of the state. As much thought needs to go into creating the new society as it does to create a revolutionary movement that is able to successfully challenge the power the state is able to exercise. The portrayal of the Libertarian position in this book is one

dimensional and lacking in imagination. The tired old arguments presented in Our Enemy The State have been proven to be wrong on previous occasions. The intellectual gaps in Nock's thesis are exposed by his tendency to build straw men so he can then destroy them.

Our Enemy The State is mandatory reading for anyone who still thinks the road to freedom is found through promoting laissez-faire capitalism.

Try your local library for a copy of this dated one dimensional foray into yesterdays thinking. There is garbage that can be recycled and there is laissez-faire capitalism that cannot be recycled, even when its wrapped in a libertarian newspaper.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION

The taxi driver blockade at Melbourne's major intersection, was subdued but determined. A group of men, mostly Indian, sat on the road, another group stood in a circle around them. The curious, taxi drivers and supporters milled around waiting for something to happen.

The police tried to contain the contagion by erecting road blocks around the taxi drivers, hoping to keep more taxis out of the intersection. Life went on as normal around the blockade, The Amnesty crowd continued looking for signatures less than fifty metres away in Federation Square.

The media waited for something, anything to happen. They wandered around the crowd looking for a story, any story. The Mayor walked from his office just fifty metres from the blockade, he was jammed in by media hacks who tried to catch a few words of wisdom. The taxi drivers looked on in disbelief.

The Salvation Army turned up at the blockade, young women, in their salvation army outfits, wandered round the crowd offering the taxi drivers hot cups of coffee. Men in small groups talked earnestly about the situation.

They were not going to be denied this time, two years ago when a colleague was stabbed to death they occupied the same intersection. They packed up when they were offered talks, nothing came from those talks. The stabbing of another colleague precipitated this action. This time they were moving for no one, they were waiting for their delegates to return from their meeting with the Transport Minister. Men far from home, studying in Australia, living on the margins, demanded respect from a public that blames them for the deplorable state of taxis. The economic plankton at the end of the taxi food chain takes the caning from the public, while the sharks at the top of the food chain fed on the plankton undisturbed by government or a public that only wants to get home and doesn't care who's blood is spilt in the process.

STOP PRESS

MABO DAY – 3rd JUNE 2008

Mabo Day, arguably one of the most important days in Australian history, will once again not be marked or celebrated in most of Australia. On the 3rd June 1992, sixteen years ago, the High Court of Australia found that

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders had rights to land in law that had not been extinguished by European colonisation. For the first time in the history of this country indigenous Australians had rights to land in law.

The outrage expressed by miners and pastoralists and Australians who had been told they would lose their backyards as a result of the Mabo judgement, resulted in the passage of state and Federal legislation that was intended to strangle the Mabo judgement at birth. The failure to implement the Mabo legislation is not a failure of law but a failure of politics. The Rudd Labor government may have taken the heat out of the stolen generations fight for recognition by issuing an apology on behalf of the Australian government, not the Australian people, but it cannot deny the essence of the Mabo High Court judgement.

Eddie Mabo, a Torres Strait Islander was born in Mer in the Torres Strait, while working as a gardener at the University of Townsville he initiated a court challenge that lasted over a decade that has the potential to change the relationship between indigenous and non indigenous Australians. Although Eddie Mabo died before the decision was handed down by the High Court, the striking out of the ridiculous notion of Terra Nullius (this land was not occupied before it was colonised) has set in motion a train of events that has resulted in the first step being taken in a reconciliation process between indigenous and non indigenous Australians based on justice, not charity.

We will be marking MABO DAY on TUESDAY 3rd JUNE between 11:30am – 12:30pm at Federation Square, Melbourne (Near the Flinders/Swanston St corner). Join us to mark what is arguably one of the most important days on the Australian calendar. Bury Terra Nullius and continue the long journey towards reconciliation between indigenous and non indigenous Australians based on justice, not charity.

Joseph TOSCANO /
Libertarian Workers For A Self-Managed Society.

POEM – Stephen Roberts GENERAL ELECTION

We see the Presidential Palace
We see the General with thick buttons
and six stars.
We see the National Guard fixed bayonets
firing on the demonstrators.
We see shanties and children playing
in the mud.
We see MACS pull down their steel
shop platings.

We are told the Economy is sick.
The country has to stand on its own feet.
We are told the Election will bring
milk and honey to the imported Bees.
We are told they will grow fat
and leave empty hives.

The home Flies' lives
Swissshh!



ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

ANARCHY No.65, SPRING/SUMMER '08, A Journal of Desire Armed, C.A.L. Press, PO Box 3448, Berkeley CA 94703, UNITED STATES,
Email : editor@anarchymag.org
Web : www.anarchymag.org
ROJO Y NEGRO No.212, APRIL '08, CGT - Publicacion Mensual Anarcho Syndicalista, Sagunto 15, 10 Madrid 28010, SPAIN, Tel: 91 447 05 72
Email : prensa@cgt.org.es
Web : www.rojoynegro.info

** SIGN THE SEDITION CHARTER - www.seditioncharter.org **

** JOIN DIRECT DEMOCRACY NOT PARLIAMENTARY RULE - www.rulebythepeople.org **

** JOIN US RECLAIM THE RADICAL SPIRIT OF THE EUREKA REBELLION 4am – 4pm WEDNESDAY 3RD DEC 2008. EUREKA PARK (Cnr STAWELL & EUREKA ST. BALLARAT) **

****URGENT****

****URGENT****

DEBT ELIMINATION APPEAL

****URGENT****

****URGENT****

Costs are increasing as we venture into new campaigns, money is always an issue – you can help by: i) Sending 50cent stamps as we still have a significant number of people who receive the AAWR by snail mail. ii) You can receive the AAWR by email – this decreases our postage costs by \$25 per year per person who receives the AAWR by Email. iii) You can make a weekly, monthly or yearly contribution to help us out. If sending less than \$50 – send us 50cent stamps – this saves you money order and cheque costs. If sending more than \$50 – make out cheques and money orders to LIBERTARIAN WORKERS, P.O. BOX 20 PARKVILLE 3052, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA. iv) Buy a subscription for a friend or local library. v) Even a voluntary organisation as small as ourselves needs ongoing financial support to survive. We need your continued support to bring anarchist ideas to an increasing number of people through the printed word, radio, the World Wide Web and hopefully in the near future through film and television.

07 - 05 - 2008

\$354.50 DEBIT

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MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate the 16th anniversary of the Mabo High Court decision delivered on the 3rd of June 1992 which acknowledged indigenous Australians had rights to land in law because of their continuous occupation of this land for over 40,000 years.

**11:30am - 12:30pm
TUESDAY 3rd JUNE 2008
FEDERATION SQUARE
MELBOURNE**

ALL WELCOME - Keep Terra Nullius at bay join us on 3rd June

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE OBSCENITY OF THE WEEK

Has been awarded to all those folk who think the election of a Rudd led Labor government means they can wait for parliament to correct societies problems.

A BENEFIT FOR G20 ARRESTEES

**8:00pm start
SATURDAY 17th MAY @ LOOPHOLE
834 High St Thornbury, Melbourne**

5 DOLLARS - 5 BANDS

Valentine - Hey Pilot - Dumbshit - Three Wyld Oscars - Dairy Buchannan

ALL WELCOME

THE ANZAC MYTH

Joseph TOSCANO

Publisher - Anarchist Media Institute 2008

This pamphlet written and published for the 2008 Anzac Day celebrations by the Anarchist Media Institute, highlights that World War One was fought by soldiers at either end of a bayonet for the glory of God, King and Country.

This exciting new pamphlet examines the successful World War One anticonscription movement. The pamphlet is a breath of fresh air in an era when telling the truth is a revolutionary act.

Pamphlet available for 20 / 50cent stamps.

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AUSTRALIA

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE

EUREKA AUSTRALIA DAY MEDAL NOMINATIONS 2008

Know someone you believe should receive the Eureka Australia Day Medal, then why not nominate them today. If you don't, chances are nobody else will. The criteria used to choose recipients is reflected in the spirit of the Eureka oath -

"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other & fight to defend our rights & liberties"

NOMINATION CLOSE - 31st OCTOBER 2008

Send in one nomination or as many as you like. Send us the following information:

- * The name of the person nominated
- * A few sentences outlining why they should receive the award
- * A contact address for the nominee (We need to contact them if they wish to receive the award)
- * The person you nominate can be a public figure or somebody only known to a few people.

SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS ASAP TO

EUREKA AUSTRALIA DAY MEDAL, P.O. BOX 20, PARKVILLE 3052, VIC, AUSTRALIA
or email your nomination to anarchistage@yahoo.com

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

**"Unions who channel dissent up the right channels dig their own graves."
- Joseph TOSCANO - MAY 2008**

WRITE TO AKIN SARI TODAY!

**AKIN SARI, c/- Barwon Prison,
Locked Bag 7, Lara 3212, Victoria, AUSTRALIA**

Akin Sari a 29 yr old Turkish political refugee who was granted political asylum in Australia has been sentenced to 2 years & 4 months imprisonment for offences related to his involvement in the G20 protests in Melbourne in November 2006. Akin has already spent 7 months in prison awaiting trial & sentencing. He has been set a minimum 14 months sentence. Akin will have to serve the maximum sentence of 2 years & 4 months if he fails to obtain parole in October 2008. Write to him today!!

RIDE AGAINST LIFESTYLE CANCER

READ ABOUT THE TOUR ONLINE - www.forblokesake.org

Andrew Stretton has commenced his bicycle ride against lifestyle cancer. Andrew the editor of the Clunes based 'The Anarchist Savants Monthly' will be bicycling from town to town around Eastern Australia holding public meetings about men living and achieving with cancer. Over 60 people attended the launch in Avoca Victoria. Read about the tour online and try to make one of the public meetings if Andrew pedals through your town.

CELEBRATION TO MARK THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUA DISPUTE

The MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA - VICTORIA BRANCH
Invites community activists and unionists involved in the Maritime Dispute
a decade ago to join them at:
**MUA BUILDING
46 Ireland St. WEST MELBOURNE
at 6:30pm - Friday 9th May 2008**
to mark this Labor milestone.

THE UNCONVENTIONAL CELLIST

KRISTEN RULE - 'DARE TO BE DIFFERENT TOUR 08'

23 Week tour through Victoria, NSW, Qld and SA

Over 6 free performances per week in metro and regional schools and regional communities. Updates on tour: - www.theunconventionacellist.com

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS - (ATNTF)

An American man who used marijuana with medical approval was denied a liver transport because of it, and has died.

Hepatitis C sufferer Timothy Garon, 56, was authorised by his doctor to use marijuana to alleviate nausea and abdominal pain and to stimulate his appetite. This is legal under state law in Garon's home state of Washington and several other states, but illegal under federal law. However the University of Washington Medical Center automatically denied him a spot on the liver transplant list, because of his use of 'illicit substances.' (Source: Associated Press)

Two Aboriginals froze to death last winter in Kalgoorlie and more will die this year if emergency housing is not built, a local doctor has warned the Federal Government.

Homelessness among Aborigines is a serious problem in the West Australian mining town, where rents have been driven up by the resources boom and there is a critical lack of public housing, said Christine Jeffries-Stokes, a Kalgoorlie paediatrician. Some indigenous people sleep rough in the bush or in Boulder Camp, a string of tin sheds and a tap on the edge of the mining town.

"It's not safe and it's not fit for humans," Dr Jeffries-Stokes said of the filthy conditions. "People are dying of the cold and catching pneumonia and other infections. In the winter we often have two or three (funerals) a week. You're talking about a population of about 3000 people, so that's an awful lot of funerals." (Source: The Age)

CIA agents trying to thwart terrorist attacks can legally use interrogation methods prohibited under international law, according to the US Justice Department.

A letter sent by the Justice Department to Congress in March makes a distinction between acts "undertaken to prevent a threatened terrorist attack" and those undertaken "for the purpose of humiliation or abuse."

Scott Silliman, who teaches national security law at Duke University, said that "what they are saying is that if my intent is to defend the United States rather than to humiliate you, then I have not committed an offence." (Source: The Age)

QUOTES OF THE MOMENT "2008 will be difficult and dangerous and bloody, and the Australian nation needs to prepare itself for further losses in the year ahead." - Kevin Rudd, speaking about the war in Afghanistan.

"You're promoted by who you pray with." - Retired US Air Force officer Mikey Weinstein, who says that he has been contacted by more than 5,500 service members or their families about incidents of religious discrimination. Incidents include a sergeant who told a lower-ranking soldier that he would 'bust him in the mouth' for not believing in God.

ATNTF weekly anarchist news report www.apolitical.info

PLEASE FORWARD THIS ON TO PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

If You Like What You Have Read, Photocopy This Publication & Leave It In Doctors, Dentists, Vets Waiting Rooms & In Railway Stations, Bus Stops, Libraries & Restaurants Etc.

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ANARCHISM - ADVANCING IN DIVERSITY STRIKING IN UNISON - YAMAGUCHI KENJI

WELCOME TO THE 21st CENTURY - THE ANARCHIST CENTURY.....